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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/681,595	10/08/2003	Mark Sonderegger	NOR-035 (16348RO)	7158
32836	7590	04/15/2005	EXAMINER	
GUERIN & RODRIGUEZ, LLP 5 MOUNT ROYAL AVENUE MOUNT ROYAL OFFICE PARK MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752			TSIDULKO, MARK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/681,595

Applicant(s)

SONDEREGGER ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Tsidulko

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon et al. (US 5,938,324).

Referring to Claim 1 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) a light pipe device for transmitting a light from light sources through an opening in a panel including a first light pipe [22] and a second light pipe [68] having a first end to receive light from a light sources (col.4, line 8) and a connector having an elongated portion [79], a first attachment portion [26] and a second attachment portion [88] extending from elongated portion and being coupled to the first and second light pipes.

Salmon et al. discloses the instant claimed invention except for that the light pipes have expanded endfaces at the second ends.

While Salmon et al. show the light pipes having not expanded endfaces, it will of course be understood for those skilled in the art, that the size of the second ends of the light pipes is a matter of the design choice, because depends on design of the panel which should be illuminated and does not change functionality of the device.

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Referring to Claim 2 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) that the first and second light pipes and the connector are fabricated as an integral unit.

Referring to Claim 3 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) that the first [26] and second [88] attachment portions are attached to the first and second light pipes at a first and a second points and the elongated portion [79] being parallel to a line defined between the first and second points.

Referring to Claim 4 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) that the first [26] and second [88] attachment portions are orthogonal to the axis of the first and second light pipes and are orthogonal to the elongated portion [79].

Referring to Claim 5 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) that the first [22] and second [68] light pipes are in parallel alignment.

Referring to Claim 6 Salmon et al. disclose that the light pipe may be made of any light-transmissive material (col.5, lines 20-27), preferably from a polycarbonate which has an optical clarity of 80%.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the light pipes constructed from the polycarbonate, as taught by Salmon et al. in order to obtain high light conductivity.

Claims 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon et al. (US 5,938,324) in view of Naganawa et al. (US 6,099,152).

Referring to Claim 1 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) a light pipe device for transmitting a light from light sources through an opening in a panel including a first light pipe [22] and a

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second light pipe [68] having a first end to receive light from a light sources (col.4, line 8) and a connector having an elongated portion [79], a first attachment portion [26] and a second attachment portion [88] extending from elongated portion and being coupled to the first and second light pipes.

While Salmon et al. show the light pipes having not expanded endfaces, it will of course be understood for those skilled in the art, that the size of the second ends of the light pipes is a matter of the design choice, because depends on design of the panel which should be illuminated and does not change functionality of the device.

Salmon et al. discloses the instant claimed invention except for tab located on the connector.

Naganawa et al. disclose (Fig.8) an elongated connector (not indicated by number) having two tabs [44] for engaging the light pipe to the panel.

Referring to Claim 8 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) that the first and second light pipes and the connector are fabricated as an integral unit.

Referring to Claim 9 Salmon et al. disclose (Fig.3) that the first [26] and second [88] attachment portions are orthogonal to the axis of the first and second light pipes and are orthogonal to the elongated portion [79].

Referring to Claims 10, 13 Salmon et al. discloses the instant claimed invention except for that the light pipes are extended through the openings in the faceplate.

Naganawa et al. disclose (Fig.5) a plurality of light conductors [41] extended through the respective openings in the faceplate [10].

Referring to Claims 11, 12 Salmon et al. discloses a plurality of LEDs (col.4, line 8).

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Referring to Claim 14 Salmon et al. disclose that the light pipe may be made of any light-transmissive material (col.5, lines 20-27), preferably from a polycarbonate which has an optical clarity of 80%.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the connector of the device of Salmon et al. having a tabs, as taught by Naganawa et al., in order to obtain engagement between light pipe device and faceplate.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Tsidulko whose telephone number is (571)272-2384. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for all communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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M.T.
April 5, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Ward', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

**JOHN ANTHONY WARD
PRIMARY EXAMINER**